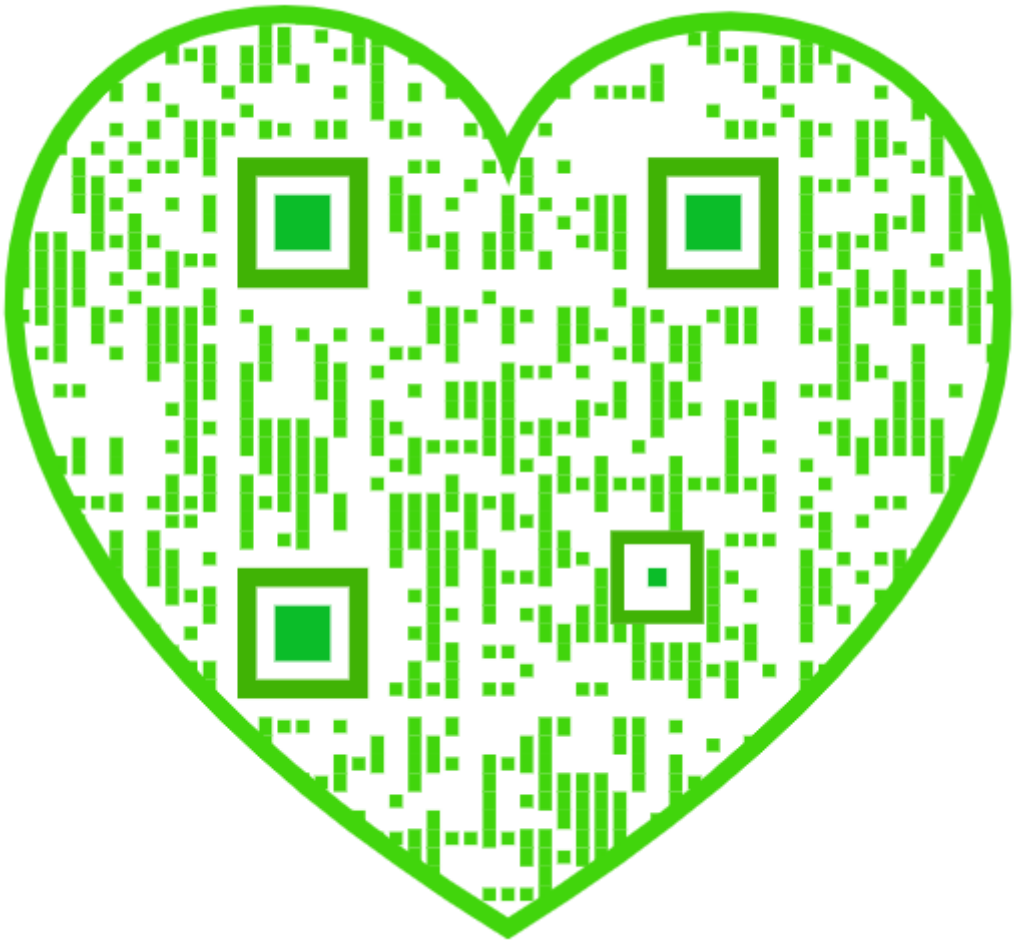

GEOGRAPHY OF MISSISSIPPI

By John Rundle

Superintendent of Schools, Grenada, Mississippi

HISTORY

At the time the white man first trod the soil of what is now the state of Mississippi, the land was inhabited by three powerful tribes of Indians. The Natchez Indians occupied the southwest section, the Choctaws the southeast and central part, and the Chickasaws the north. Minor tribes living in the territory included the Yazoos in the Yazoo Valley, and the Pascagoulas and the Biloxis who dwelt along the banks of the Mississippi River.

The history of Mississippi falls into several divisions, comprising the periods of exploration, French rule, English rule, Spanish rule, the territorial period, and the period of statehood.

In December, 1540, Hernando de Soto with a body of Spanish adventurers entered the present state of Mississippi near the junction of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers. He crossed the Pearl River in what is now Lake County, and entered the Indian village of Chickasaw, which he fortified as winter quarters. These explorers made no settlements. They crossed the Mississippi River in 1541, and the death of the leader in 1542 put an end to the expedition.

In 1673 a French expedition from New France, now Canada, under Louis Joliet and Father Marquette, descended the Mississippi River as far as the Arkansas. Nine years later the explorer La Salle sailed down the Mississippi to its mouth, passing by the greater part of the western border of our state. He took possession of the adjacent country for King Louis XIV of France and called it Louisiana.

Mississippi State Memorial, National Military Park, Vicksburg

The first European colony was started in 1699 by Pierre Lemoyne, better known as Sieur d'Iberville, at Fort Maurepas, located on the north side of Biloxi Bay. This was the first white settlement made in the territory now embraced in Mississippi. The following year Iberville ascended the Mississippi to the present site of Natchez. Fort Rosalie was started at that point a little later by Bienville, the governor of Louisiana, of which Mississippi was then a part. The fort was completed in 1716. A settlement, which was called St. Peter's, was also made in 1703 on the Yazoo River. The colonies thus planted grew but slowly, and New Orleans, founded soon after, drew off a large portion of the colonists.

In 1763 France ceded to Great Britain all her territory east of the Mississippi River except New Orleans, including most of the present state of Mississippi. At the same time Spain ceded to Great Britain the Floridas, including the southern part of our state. During the twenty years of English rule, from 1763 to 1783, there was considerable immigration from England and Ireland, and from Georgia and South Carolina. In 1783, when the United States became independent, Great Britain ceded the Floridas back to Spain.

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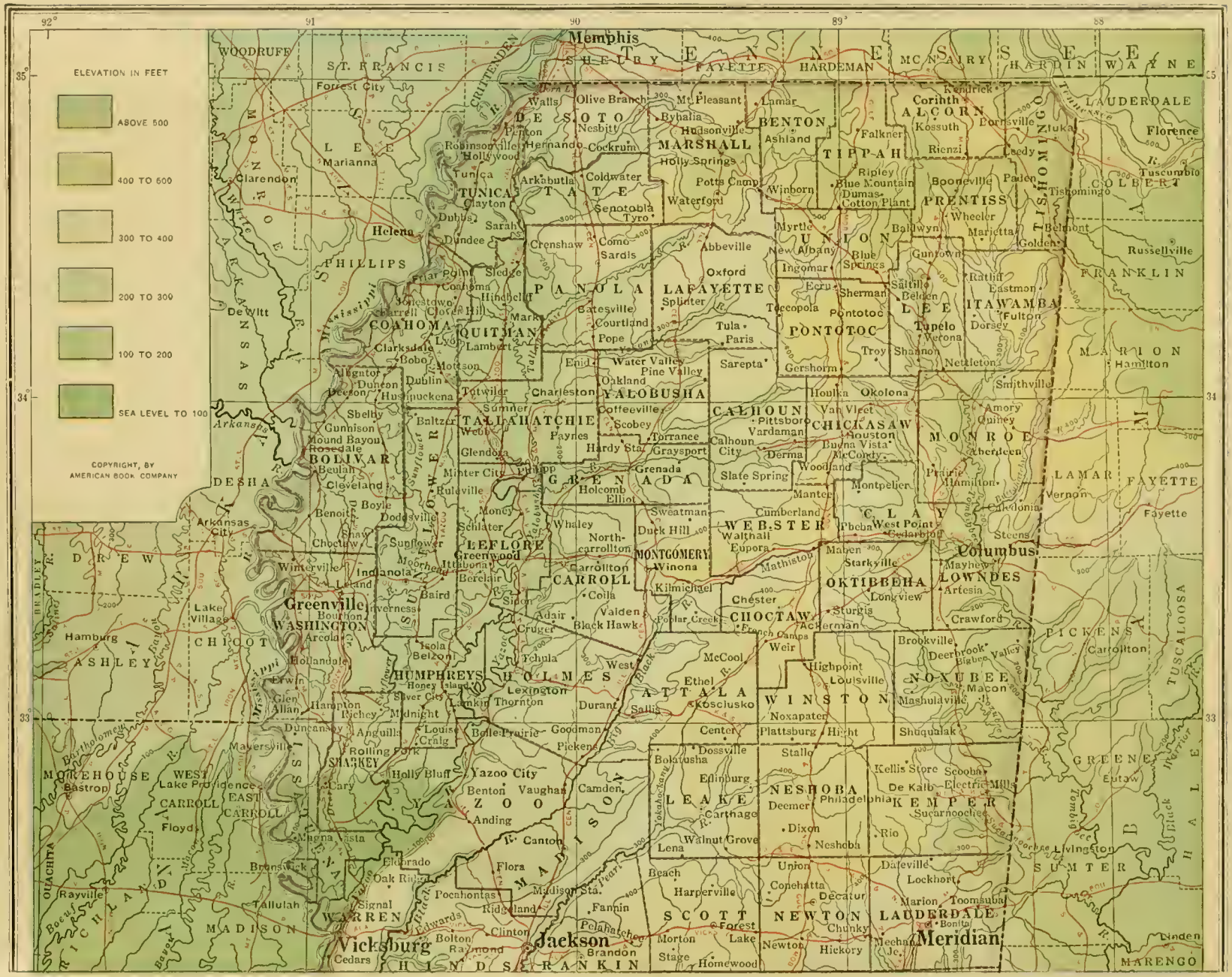
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Yazoo City
Natchez
WOODRUFF
ST. FRANCIS
CRITTENDEN
SHELBY
FAYETTE
HARDEMAN
MCNAIRY
HARDIN
WAYNE
LAUDERDALE
TISHOMINGO
ALCORN
PRENTISS
TIPPAH
BENTON
MARSHALL
DE SOTO
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MONROE
PHILLIPS
COAHOMA
QUITMAN
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LAFAYETTE
UNION
PONTOTOC
ITAWAMBA
COLBERT
FRANKLIN
MARION
LAMAR
FAYETTE
DESHA
BOLIVAR
TALLAHATCHIE
YALOBUSHA
CALHOUN
CHICKASAW
MONROE
LEFLORE
GRENADA
MONTGOMERY
WEBSTER
CLAY
OKTIBBEHA
LOWNDES
DREW
SUNFLOWER
CARROLL
CHOCTAW
ASHLEY
CHICOT
WASHINGTON
HUMPHREYS
HOLMES
ATTALA
WINSTON
NOXUBEE
PICKENS
GREENE
TUSCALOOSA
MOREHOUSE
WEST CARROLL
EAST CARROLL
MADISON
YAZOO
LEAKE
NESHOBA
KEMPER
WARREN
SCOTT
NEWTON
LAUDERDALE
SUMTER
HINDS
RANKIN
MARENGO
Mississippi R.
Arkansas R.
Yazoo R.
Big Black R.
Tombigbee R.
Tallahatchie R.
Sunflower R.
Coldwater R.
Yocknapatalfa R.
Tuscumbia R.
Forest City
Marianna
Clarendon
Helena
Dundee
Sarah
Walls
Olive Branch
Mt. Pleasant
Lamar
Byhalia
Hudsonville
Ashland
Falkner
Kossuth
Corinth
Kendrick
Florence
Rienzi
Ripley
Blue Mountain
Dumas
Cotton Plant
Booneville
Paden
Tishomingo
Wheeler
Baldwyn
Marietta
Belmont
Golden
Russellville
Guntown
Blue Springs
New Albany
Ingomar
Abbeville
Crenshaw
Como
Sardis
Senatobia
Tyro
Waterford
Potts Camp
Winborn
Myrtle
Ecru
Sherman
Saltillo
Belden
Ratliff
Eastmon
Fulton
Dorsey
Tupelo
Verona
Pontotoc
Tecoopola
Troy
Shannon
Nettleton
Gershorm
Sarepta
Tula
Paris
Splinter
Gatesville
Courtland
Pope
Water Valley
Pine Valley
Oakland
Enid
Charleston
Houlka
Okolona
Van Vleet
Pittsboro
Vardaman
Houston
Buena Vista
McCordy
Amory
Quincy
Aberdeen
Smithville
Hamilton
Prairie
Montpelier
Mantee
Caledonia
Vernon
Fayette
Cumberland
Eupora
Walthall
Duck Hill
Sweatman
Whaley
Money
Schlater
Ruleville
Drew
Shaw
Boyle
Dodesville
Benoit
Arkansas City
Cleveland
Beulah
Rosedale
Gunnison
Shelby
Baltzer
Webb
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Torrance
Graysport
Calhoun City
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Slate Spring
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Columbus
Mayhew
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Cedarbluff
Starkville
Mathiston
Maben
Longview
Artesia
Crawford
Sturgis
Ackerman
French Camp
Weir
Chester
Kilmichael
Vinona
Carrollton
Coila
Valden
Black Hawk
Poplar Creek
Adair
Cruger
Sidon
Berclair
Greenwood
Leflore
Itta Bena
Indianola
Inverness
Baird
Leland
Winterville
Moorhead
Sunflower
Choctaw
Lake Village
Arcola
Hollandale
Erwin
Glen Allan
Hamburg
Bourbon
Isola
Belzoni
Tchula
Lexington
Honey Island
Silver City
Lenkin
Thornton
Harrison
Richey
Midnight
Louise
Craig
Belle Prairie
Goodman
Pickens
Durant
Sallis
Kosciusko
Ethel
McCool
Highpoint
Louisville
Mashulaville
Noxapater
Plattsburg
Hight
Center
Shuqualak
Brooksville
Deerbrook
Bigbee Valley
Carrollton
Macon
Duncansby
Anguilla
Rolling Fork
Sharkey
Mayersville
Holly Bluff
Yazoo City
Benton
Vaughan
Camden
Bolatusha
Dossville
Stallo
Edinburg
Carthage
Deemer
Philadelphia
Dixon
Neshoba
Lena
Walnut Grove
Kellis Store
Scooba
De Kalb
Electric Mills
Sucarnoochee
Rio
Eutaw
Livingston
Gunter
Talbert
Bastrop
Lake Providence
Floyd
Mangna
Vasta
Anding
Canton
Eldorado
Oak Ridge
Flora
Madison Sta.
Fannin
Bransford
Tallulah
Rayville
Signal
Pocahontas
Ridgeland
Edwards
Bolton
Raymond
Clinton
Pelahatchee
Brandon
Cedars
Morton
Lake
Forest
Newton
Hickory
Chunky
Meehan Jc.
Union
Beach
Harperville
Conehatta
Decatur
Daleville
Lockhart
Marion
Toomsuba
Bonita
Linden
Homewood
Stage
Rankin
Hinds
Madison
Warren
Issaquena
Sharkey
Humphreys
Yazoo
Holmes
Attala
Winston
Noxubee
Kemper
Neshoba
Leake
Scott
Newton
Lauderdale
Sumter
Greene
Marengo
Pickens
Tuscaloosa
Lowndes
Oktibbeha
Choctaw
Webster
Montgomery
Carroll
Leflore
Sunflower
Tallahatchie
Yalobusha
Calhoun
Chickasaw
Monroe
Panola
Lafayette
Union
Pontotoc
Itawamba
Lee
Tippah
Benton
Marshall
De Soto
Tunica
Quitman
Coahoma
Bolivar
Desha
Drew
Chicot
Ashley
Phillips
Monroe
Lee
Crittenden
Woodruff
St. Francis
Shelby
Fayette
Hardeman
McNairy
Hardin
Wayne
Lauderdale
Tishomingo
Alcorn
Prentiss

Map Study.—1. In what group of states is Mississippi located? (See page 116.) 2. What rivers and what gulf form natural boundaries of the state? 3. Which boundaries are artificial? 4. How does Mississippi rank in area with other states of the South Central Group? 5. What is its rank in population? (See page 116.) 6. What is the width of the state on its northern boundary? On parallel 31°? 7. What is the greatest length of the state north and south? (Use ruler and scale of miles.) 8. In what zone is Mississippi? 9. In what part of that zone? 10. In what county is Jackson? Meridian? Vicksburg? 11. Find your county on the map. 12. How far is your home in a straight line from Jackson? From Meridian? 13. How far is it from Meridian to New York? To Chicago? To San Francisco? To New Orleans? 14. Name and locate three rivers within the state. 15. In what general direction do the main rivers of the state flow? 16. What does this indicate with reference to the slope of the land? 17. Which part of the state is highest? 18. Which part of the state is lowest? 19. What states border on Mississippi? 20. What is the most easterly county of the state? 21. What county extends farthest south? Farthest west?

National Military Park, Vicksburg

For a time Spain claimed most of Mississippi as part of the Floridas, but in 1795 she accepted the parallel of 31° as the boundary.

In 1798 Congress organized, from lands claimed by Georgia, the Mississippi Territory, which at that time included less than half of the present states of Alabama and Mississippi.

The boundaries of Mississippi Territory were the Mississippi River on the west, the 31st parallel on the south, the Chattahoochee on the east, and a line drawn from the mouth of the Yazoo due east on the north. In 1804, after cessions by Georgia and South Carolina, extensive lands south of Tennessee were attached to the Mississippi Territory, which thus comprised the whole of what are now the states of Alabama and Mississippi from the 31st to the 35th parallel. The part of those states south of 31° was added in 1812.

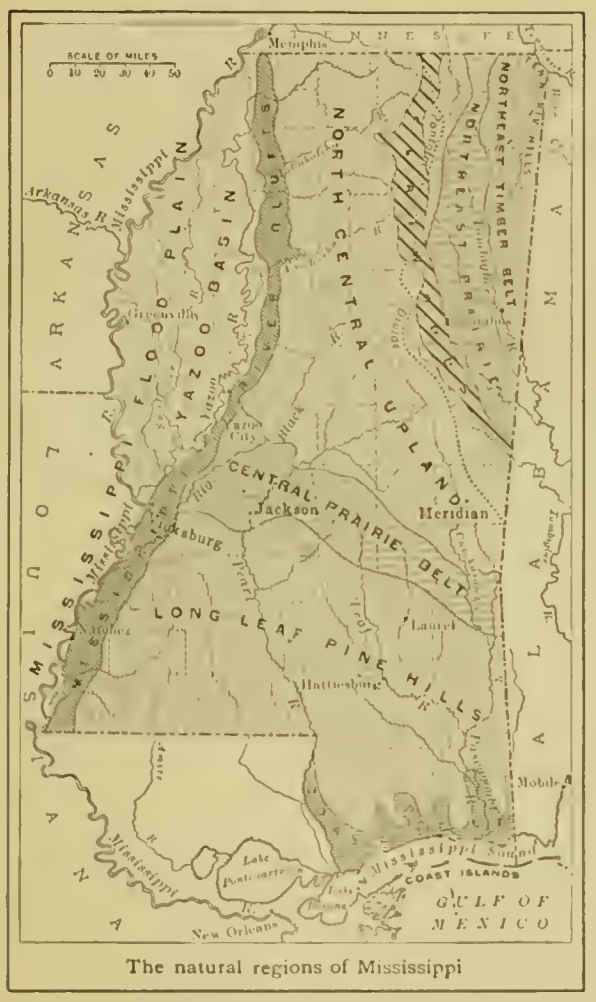
In March, 1817, Alabama was separated from Mississippi and organized under a territorial government of its own; and in December of the same year Mississippi was admitted into the Union as a state. Washington, six miles east of Natchez, was the first capital. Jackson became the capital in 1822. The first state governor was David Holmes.

The growth of the state in population was from the first very rapid, and its citizens always exerted a large influence in national affairs. Mississippi was the second state to pass an ordinance of secession, the state convention taking that action January 9, 1861. During the long Civil War, Mississippi regiments were found on every battlefield from Manassas to Appomattox Court House. Many important engagements occurred in Mississippi, the most noted of which were Corinth, Iuka, Holly Springs, Chickasaw Bayou, Raymond, Jackson, and Baker's Creek. The siege of Vicksburg ranks among the great historical events. In 1865 the ordinance of secession was repealed and slavery abolished. Congress refused to recognize the state, which suffered much during the reconstruction period. In 1876 the Federal troops were withdrawn and since that time the state has made continuous advancement. During the World War, 1917–1918, Mississippi gave generously of her sons and her resources in support of the American cause.

Questions and Exercises.—1. By whom was Mississippi occupied before the coming of the white man? 2. Name the periods into which the history of Mississippi is divided. 3. Give an account of De Soto's explorations in this state. 4. Name the French explorers who visited this territory. 5. Who made the first settlement in this state? Where? When? 6. Give an account of the period of English rule. 7. How long did the Spanish rule last? 8. When was Mississippi organized as a territory? What were its boundaries at that time? What other lands were added in 1804? 9. When was Alabama separated from Mississippi? When was Mississippi admitted to the Union as a state? 10. What was the first capital? Who was the first governor? 11. Give an account of conditions in Mississippi during the Civil War. 12. What did Mississippi contribute to the World War?

POSITION, FORM, AND SIZE

Mississippi, one of the group of South Central States, occupies a central position among the states that border on the Gulf of Mexico. The northern boundary follows the parallel of 35 degrees north latitude between the Mississippi and Tennessee rivers, separating the state from Tennessee. The Tennessee River on the northeast and the



The natural regions of Mississippi

nearly straight eastern boundary form the Mississippi-Alabama state line. The Gulf of Mexico and parallel 31 degrees, between the Mississippi and Pearl rivers, form the southern boundary. On the west the Mississippi River separates the state from Arkansas and Louisiana; the part of the western boundary south of parallel 31 degrees is formed by the Pearl River. With the exception of the southeastern extension of the state south of parallel 31 degrees, and the meandering course of the Mississippi River, Mississippi has a rather regular form, with an extreme width of 188 miles and an extreme length of 330 miles. The state has a total area of 46,865 square miles, of which 503 square miles are water surface. Mississippi ranks as the thirty-first state of the Union in size. It is larger than Pennsylvania and somewhat smaller than Louisiana. It is one sixth the size of Texas and about 38 times the size of Rhode Island.

Questions and Exercises.—1. What position has Mississippi among the states that border the Gulf of Mexico? 2. What parallel marks the northern boundary? 3. What state borders on the north? 4. What river forms part of the Mississippi-Alabama state line? 5. What gulf and parallel are on the south? 6. What rivers are on the west? 7. What are the dimensions of the state east and west, and north and south, respectively? 8. How does Mississippi rank in size with other states of the Union? 9. What is its total area in square miles?

SURFACE

The surface of Mississippi lies almost entirely within the region of the Coastal or Gulf Plain, the exception being a small area in the northeastern corner of the state occupied by the Tennessee River Hills, which are foothills of the Cumberland Plateau. The Coastal Plain comprises eight well-defined physical divisions. Six of these lie in belts roughly parallel with the edge of the plateau and in the following order from northeast to southwest: (1) the Northeast Timber Belt, (2) the Northeast Prairie Region, (3) the North Central Upland, (4) the Central Prairie Belt, (5) the Long Leaf Pine Hills, (6) the Coast Belt and Coast Islands. These belts are bounded along the western side of the state by (7) the Mississippi River Bluffs and (8) the Yazoo Basin.

Tennessee River Hills.—The Tennessee River Hills extend over portions of Tishomingo and Itawamba counties, and consist of limestones and sandstones which are very old and have been dry land much longer than the Gulf Plain. They are drained by the Tennessee River on the east, and become gradually lower toward the west until they merge with the Gulf Plain. The region

Northwest Prairie Region. Harvesting alfalfa

abounds in springs, and the uplands were originally heavily forested. Some of the most picturesque scenery in the state is found where Bear Creek has cut its channel through the sandstone, forming rapids and high cliffs.

Northeast Timber Belt.—Extending west and south from the Tennessee River Hills is the comparatively level Northeast Timber Belt. When the Tennessee River Hills were dry land, the rest of the state was under water. The streams flowing from the hills carried much soil-forming material, which was deposited near the shore. The clays and sands of these formations have produced a sandy loam soil.

Northeast Prairie Region.—In a belt from 10 to 26 miles wide and 100 miles long, lying west of the Tombigbee River, a soft chalky limestone has weathered into a deep, rich, dark soil. This region has a smooth surface and is known in Mississippi and Alabama as the Black Prairie Belt. It is one of the best farming regions in the South. The western boundary of the Black Prairie is clearly defined by the Pontotoc Divide, a long meandering ridge, 100 feet or more in height, which extends from Tennessee to and across the Alabama border.

The Pontotoc Divide forms the watershed between the Mississippi, Pearl, and Tombigbee river basins and is one of the most interesting physical features of the state. In places the limestone has been dissolved, forming caves and channels for underground streams. In Union County the hill tops appear as bare, rounded "knobs." The rich soil of this region is adapted to the growth of grain, grasses, and cotton.

Parallel with the northern part of the Pontotoc Divide and west of the southern part of the Black Prairie is a narrow belt of level, clayey land called the Flatwoods. There the soil is inferior and the timber of little value.

North Central Upland.—In the north central part of the state the upland slopes gently westward from the Pontotoc Divide on the east to the bluffs bordering the Yazoo Delta, and southward to the Central Prairie. This region occupies a large area and has a great variety of surface features. The greater part is known as the Short Leaf Pine Hills, and is deeply covered with orange-colored sand. Along the western border of the plateau are bluffs that descend abruptly to the Yazoo Basin, lying 200 feet or more below. This difference in elevation between the two regions has caused the streams of the plateau to cut deep and narrow valleys. The greatest elevations in the state are on the

The Long Leaf Pine Hills Region. Assorting and packing carrots for shipment

The Mississippi Flood Plain. Mattress built to protect the banks of the Mississippi River from erosion

divide between the Tennessee and Tallahatchie river basins. The greatest altitude is 625 feet near Holly Springs.

Central Prairie Belt.—South of the North Central Upland is a belt of land known as the Central Prairie, which extends across the state into Alabama. Its surface is more rolling than that of the Northeast Prairie and consists largely of sandy ridges. In the depressions between the ridges, the marly soil is very fertile and easily cultivated.

Long Leaf Pine Hills. — The extensive region known as the Long Leaf Pine Hills lies south of the Central Prairie. It consists of formations of sandstone, clays, and broad deposits of orange sand. The highest elevations are more than 500 feet above the sea level, and in some places the hills rise 200 feet above the larger streams, which flow in narrow valleys. Steep cliffs of sandstone outcrop along the hillsides in the northwestern part of this region. The most extensive forests in the state are found here, the principal growth being long leaf pine, which extends northward from the coast for 150 miles. The soils on the hill tops are not fertile and are used mostly for pasture. The valleys, however, are productive and are generally cultivated. Turpentine, resin, and other naval stores are among the important products of the timber belt.

The Coast Belt and Coast Islands.—The Coast Belt lies between the Long Leaf Pine Hills and Mississippi Sound. Parallel to the shore are many long wind-formed ridges, or sand dunes, which are broken by streams flowing to the Gulf. The soil is generally sandy, with some alluvial deposits in the stream valleys.

About 10 or 12 miles from the coast a line of small islands has been formed from the white sand washed up by the waves and tides and still further elevated by the action of the winds.

The Mississippi Flood Plain.—Along the west side of the state the Mississippi River has cut a trench 30 to 80 miles wide and hundreds of feet deep, which it is now engaged in filling up. This trench, known as the alluvial valley or flood plain, is bounded on the east by steep bluffs 100 to 300 feet high. The main channel of the river leaves the east bluff at Memphis, Tennessee, and crosses the valley to the west side at Helena, Arkansas. It runs near the west bluff as far as the Arkansas-Louisiana state line, and then crosses again, striking the east bluff at Vicksburg. It then follows the east bluff closely to the Mississippi-Louisiana line. Since the state is bounded on the west by the river, it includes a large part of the widest portion of the flood plain above Vicksburg, known as the Yazoo Basin or Delta, while below Vicksburg most of the flood plain belongs to Louisiana. The contrast between the flood plain and the uplands at the top of the bluff is everywhere strongly marked.

The Yazoo Basin.—Throughout the course of the lower Mississippi, it is the habit of the river to flow near one side of its flood plain,

Coast Belt. Orange grove at Ocean Springs

Oyster wharves and cannery, Biloxi

while a large side channel or bayou follows the foot of the bluff on the opposite side. This bayou naturally leads from the main river channel and receives all the tributaries on that side, delivering the accumulated waters into the main stream at the point below where the two again unite. The Yazoo Basin is the largest and richest of these divisions of the Mississippi Flood Plain. This basin, popularly known as the Yazoo Delta, is in no sense a delta formation.

The Yazoo Basin comprises about 7,000 square miles of the best farming lands of the world. Its surface is nearly level, but has a general slope southward and locally gentler slopes away from the stream banks. It is traversed by a network of waterways which inclose islands of all shapes and sizes. The surface of each island is higher near the margin than in the interior, which is usually swampy and wooded. The soil deposited by repeated overflows of the river is a black, sandy loam, easily cultivated and of inexhaustible fertility. Buildings and crops are protected from destructive floods by artificial levees which extend along the main waterways.

The Mississippi River Bluffs.—The eastern edge of the Mississippi Flood Plain is bordered by a line of bluffs which are almost as different from the uplands in the east as from the lowlands on the west. The edge of the upland was cut away in ages past by the river, and later it was covered by deposits of fine, limy silt, called *loess*, which was blown up by the westerly winds from the dry mud flats of the flood plain.

These deposits occurred during the glacial epoch when the river drained the great ice sheet and carried sediment somewhat different from its present load. Loess is easily eroded, yet may stand up in high, steep banks. Hence the little streams which flow down the bluff have cut deep narrow gorges sometimes called "guts." These extend back into the upland far enough to form a belt of rough country a few miles wide, distinguished by its loess soil and dissected surface.

Questions and Exercises.—1. Name eight physical divisions of the Coastal Plain. 2. Describe the region included in the Tennessee River Hills. 3. What kind of soil is found in the Northeast Timber Belt? 4. Describe the Black Prairie Belt. 5. What is the character of the Pontotoc Divide? 6. Where are the Flatwoods? 7. Where are the Short Leaf Pine Hills? 8. Describe the surface and soil of the Central Prairie Belt. 9. What is said of the soil in the Long Leaf Pine Hills? 10. What are the products from the timber belt? 11. Where is the Coast Belt? 12. Describe the Mississippi Flood Plain. 13. Describe the Yazoo Basin. 14. Where are the Mississippi River Bluffs?

DRAINAGE

The Mississippi System.—About one half of the state is drained by the tributaries of the

Mississippi. In the north the Tallahatchie and Yalobusha rivers and many smaller streams drain the upland from the Pontotoc divide into the Yazoo River. The Yazoo and all the other large streams of the flood plain originally had their sources in the main Mississippi, from which they received more or less water, according to the high or low stage of the river. Most of them have been closed at the head by a levee. The drainage system of the flood plain is partly under artificial control. The main river is constantly shifting its channel, and occasionally cuts off a big bend, as it did at Vicksburg in 1876. In such a case, the oxbow left at one side becomes a lake which gradually fills up. At Vicksburg this is prevented by a canal which diverts the Yazoo into the abandoned channel. The Big Black River drains the central part of the state directly to the Mississippi, which it joins about twenty-five miles below Vicksburg.

Escatawpa River, near Pascagoula

Rivers of the Gulf Plain.—The Tombigbee River flows south through Mississippi and Alabama into Mobile Bay, and the Pearl River flows southward through the middle of the state into Mississippi Sound. The rivers of the Gulf Plain do not unite into broad systems, but tend to flow parallel to each other, each to its separate mouth. The interval between the Tombigbee and Pearl rivers is drained by the Pascagoula, and that between the Pearl and the Mississippi by many small streams.

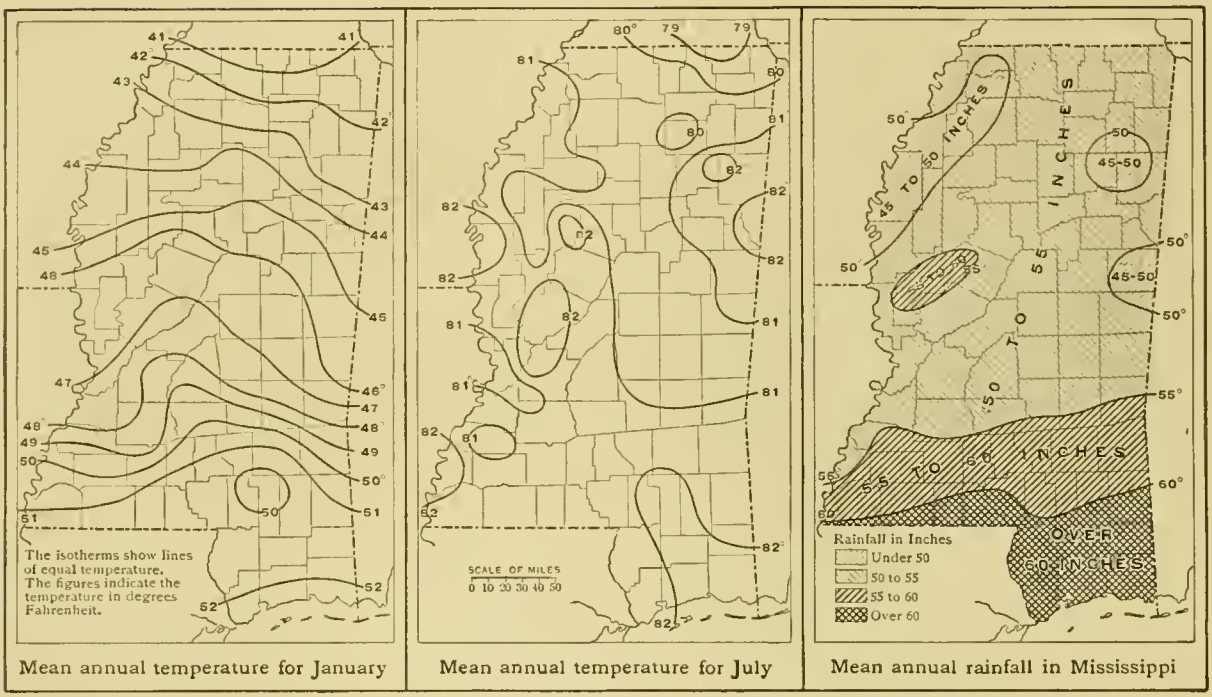
Mississippi River steamers at Vicksburg

Rivers of the Cumberland Plateau.—From the high land in the northeast, several short streams flow northeastward into the Tennessee River.

Questions and Exercises.—1. In what drainage basin is about half of Mississippi? 2. What tributary of the Mississippi drains the central part of the state? 3. What minor drainage basins are there in the state? 4. Name the rivers of the Gulf Plain. 5. Describe the general character of these streams. 6. Describe the course of the Pearl River.

CLIMATE

The state lies in what is called the semi-tropical climate belt. On account of its position south of the 35th parallel, its moderate elevation, and its nearness to the Gulf of Mexico, the climate is mild. During the winter months the difference of temperature between the northern uplands and the southern coast is marked, but in summer a more nearly uniform temperature prevails throughout the state. The monthly average at different stations varies from 41 degrees to 52 degrees in January, and from 79 degrees to 82 degrees in July. For the whole state it is 46.6 degrees in January and 80.9 degrees


The isotherms show lines of equal temperature. The figures indicate the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.
SCALE OF MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50
45 TO 50 INCHES
45-50
50 TO 55 INCHES
55 TO 60 INCHES
OVER 60 INCHES
Rainfall in Inches
Under 50
50 to 55
55 to 60
Over 60

Mean annual temperature for January | Mean annual temperature for July | Mean annual rainfall in Mississippi

in July. The absolute extreme temperatures recorded in the state are: 15 degrees at Aberdeen and 107 at several places.

The northern half of the state enjoys an average growing period of seven months between killing frosts, while on the Gulf coast the growing period is nine months.

The annual rainfall ranges from 48 to 58 inches. The heaviest rains occur in the late winter or early spring, when the warm gulf breezes meet the cold north winds.

Thunderstorms occur in all months of the year but are most frequent in July and August. Severe storms from the Gulf sometimes cross the state, but not every year. Tornadoes are likely to occur in February and March. The average wind velocity for the whole year is seven miles per hour.

Questions and Exercises.—1. What conditions cause a mild climate in Mississippi? 2. What is the average temperature for the whole state in January and July respectively? 3. What is the length of the growing period in the northern half of the state? On the Gulf coast? 4. What is said of the rainfall? 5. What is the average wind velocity?

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Plants.—The mild climate and abundant rainfall of Mississippi place it in the natural region of temperate rain and summer forests. There were 32,000 square miles of timbered land in the state in 1900. The mixed forests of deciduous trees and broad-leaved evergreens characteristic of such a climate prevail only in the Coast Belt. Over most of the uplands the sandy soil seems to be unfavorable for such growth and it is displaced by coniferous forests, chiefly of long leaf pine. The limestone soils are generally prairie. The old lands in the northeast are covered with the dense forest characteristic of the Appalachian Plateau. Large timber trees are abundant and of great variety: the live oak and magnolia near the coast, the long leaf pine in the southern third of the state, the short leaf pine and many species of oak in the north, and the cypress, cottonwood, gum, and pecan on the alluvial bottoms. The holly, sassafras, persimmon, wild cherry, Chickasaw plum, grape, lime, and pawpaw are widely distributed.

Animals.—The larger species of wild animals, deer, bears, wolves, and wild cats, have been nearly or quite exterminated and only the smaller game, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, rabbits, turkeys, quails, geese, and ducks, remain. These, however, are generally abundant. There are alligators in the river bottoms as far north as the mouth of the Arkansas, and rattlesnakes on the uplands. Among the hundreds of species of land birds, the mocking bird, cardinal, whippoorwill, and parrakeet are notable. The streams swarm with such fish as buffalo fish, catfish, crappie, bass, pike, perch, suckers, and eels. From the waters of the Sound oysters, crabs, shrimps, trout, mackerel, sheepshead, mullet, bluefish, flounders, and sea bass are taken.

Picking cotton in the Yazoo Delta

Questions and Exercises.—1. How much of Mississippi was woodland in 1900? 2. What forests are characteristic of the Coast Belt? Of the Uplands? 3. What trees valuable for lumber are found in the state? 4. What other trees are widely distributed? 5. What wild animals were once to be found in Mississippi? 6. What smaller game are still abundant? 7. Name some birds and fish found in this state.

AGRICULTURE

Mississippi is, and has been from the beginning, an agricultural state. More than three fifths of its entire land area is in farms. The average value of the farm land in 1910 was $13.69 per acre. The total value of the farm property, according to the United States Census for that year, was almost $426,315,000. This was more than twice its value at the time of the preceding census, ten years before.

In the days before the Civil War most of the farming in Mississippi was done on large plantations. In 1850 the average size of the farm, or plantation, was a little over 308 acres, according to the United States Census of that year. This meant that while there were some small farms, there were many large plantations of 1000 acres or more. From year to year since that time there has been a decrease in the average farm acreage, and during the past forty years the farms have been gradually divided into smaller and smaller parcels of land until they have reached their present size. There are still, however, nearly 8000 plantations in the state. The plantation system is probably more firmly fixed in the Yazoo Delta than in any other area of the South. This is due to the fertile soil and the climatic conditions, which are favorable for cotton raising, together with the large negro population available for cultivating and picking the cotton.

Crops.—Cotton is the leading agricultural product of the state. The value of the cotton raised each year is nearly two thirds that of all the crops raised. An average of more than 3,000,000 acres of Mississippi farm land is planted to cotton each year, with an average annual product of more than 1,000,000 bales, or an annual yield of about 147 pounds per acre. Out of every 100 farms, 84 raise cotton.

The largest acreage of cotton is found in the alluvial bottoms of the Yazoo Delta. This is one of the greatest cotton-producing regions of the world. The section includes fourteen counties, and these counties combined produce about a third of the total cotton crop of the state. Some cotton is grown, however, in every county. In

An extensive oat field in central Mississippi

1910 Yazoo County had the largest acreage in cotton and Bolivar was the leading county in the size of the cotton crop. Mississippi cotton is of several varieties, differing both in kind and value. Much of it is long staple cotton of an excellent quality. The cotton seed, after being separated from the fiber, is used in various ways. The cottonseed had a value of nearly $27,000,000 in 1919.

Next in importance to cotton are the cereals. More than 95 per cent of the total acreage and total value of the cereal crop is in corn. The corn raised in Mississippi has an annual value of about $100,000,000. It is grown in every county in the state, but the size of the yield varies much in the several localities, because of the differences in soil conditions.

A number of Corn Club boys hold records of 200 bushels per acre. The average production per acre for the state is of course far below this record.

A farm tractor

The leading county in corn production in 1910 was Yazoo; the largest increase in production between 1900 and 1910 was in Sunflower County. In quality, Mississippi corn ranks very high.

Of the other cereal crops, only oats are worthy of special mention, their annual value being about $6,000,000. The growing of oats is coming much into favor in some localities of the state and there is large acreage of oats on the Coastal Plain south and southeast of the Big Black River.

Hay and forage rank next in importance. The total value of the various crops classed under this head was more than $13,000,000 in 1919, according to report of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Of this the largest values were given to "wild, salt, or prairie grasses," "grains cut green," and "other tame or cultivated grasses." Hay and forage are raised in every county of the state, and the acreage is quite generally distributed. Some alfalfa is grown, and some clover, either alone or mixed with timothy. Other grains and seeds include dried peas, peanuts, and beans.

Mississippi is a great sweet potato state. In 1919 it ranked as the fifth state of the Union in the value of the sweet potatoes and yams grown. The principal acreage of sweet potatoes and yams was in the southern and southwestern counties. The total value of the 1919 crop was about $11,600,000. The value of the white potatoes raised in the

state is about one fourth that of the sweet potatoes.

Every vegetable known can be made to grow in Mississippi, and the vegetables of various kinds bring much wealth to the state. Truck farming has become a highly specialized industry. The tomato flourishes, and green beans, peas, radishes, asparagus, cabbages, cauliflower, lettuce, carrots, onions, peppers, beets, and turnips, as well as quantities of watermelons and cantaloupes, are shipped from the state to northern markets.

Mississippi is also a great small-fruit state. Strawberries are by far the most important of the small fruits. The value of the strawberry crop is about $1,500,000 a year. Many blackberries and dewberries are raised, and some raspberries and loganberries.

Drying pecans for market

The production of orchard fruits has been largely on the increase since 1900. Peaches and nectarines are first in value. Apples come next, and many pears, plums, and cherries are grown, as well as some grapes. Of tropical fruits, figs are the only ones largely raised, but these are a valuable crop. Nuts, especially pecans, bring considerable wealth to the state.

Sugar cane to the value of about $1,500,000 a year is raised. A large proportion of the cane is made into sirup.

Live Stock.—The total value of live stock in Mississippi in 1920 amounted to about $170,000,000. The largest value, $78,000,000,

Herd of dairy cows in the Upland Region

was in horses and mules. Mules are to be found on more than half the farms in Mississippi. There are about two fifths as many horses as mules, and their value is little more than half that of the mules.

Cattle valued at $52,000,000, principally dairy cows, are kept on three fourths of the farms. The dairy statistics for 1910 reported nearly 80,000,000 gallons of milk for the state, and about 29,000,000 pounds of butter made.

Hogs are raised on farms in all sections of the state, and they are a very profitable accompaniment to cattle, especially dairy cows. Their value in 1920 was about $35,000,000. Sheep are raised profitably in

Pure-bred Mississippi hogs

Horses on a Delta plantation

some localities. Besides the value of mutton and lamb, 656,000 pounds of wool were obtained in 1919.

There are in Mississippi more than 4,000,000 chickens which produce yearly about 18,000,000 dozen of eggs. Geese, guinea fowls, turkeys, ducks, and some pigeons are also raised. Bee keeping also yields substantial returns from the sale of honey.

Questions and Exercises.—1. Why is Mississippi an agricultural state? 2. How much of the area is included in farms? 3. What is said of the average size of the farms? 4. Where is the plantation system more firmly fixed? Why? 5. What is the leading agricultural product? 6. What is the average annual yield in bales for the state? 7. What was the value of the cottonseed in 1919? 8. What crop is next in importance? 9. What is the annual value of the corn raised in Mississippi? 10. A number of Corn Club boys show a record of how many bushels per acre? 11. What other cereal crop is worthy of mention? 12. What hay and forage crops are grown? 13. What is said of the sweet potato crop in Mississippi? 14. What vegetables can be grown in the state? 15. What varieties of berries are found here? 16. What is said of the production of orchard fruits? 17. What is the value of the sugar cane raised? 18. What was the total value of live stock in Mississippi in 1920? 19. What is the value of the horses and mules in the state? 20. What is said of cattle and dairy products? 21. What was the value of hogs raised in this state in 1920?

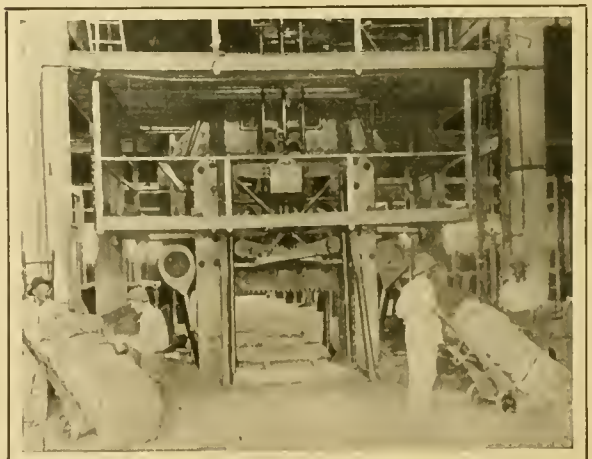
MINERALS

Mining and the mineral productions in Mississippi are of minor importance, as compared with agriculture. The leading mineral industries deal with clay, principally with the making of brick and tile. The brick and tile manufactured in the state in 1916 had a value of about $521,000. A small amount of clay is made into pottery.

There are fine deposits of gravel in the timber belt in the northeastern part of the state, and other gravel beds are to be found east of the Yazoo Delta and west of Pearl River. Next to the clay products, digging out gravel is the leading mineral industry. The gravel is used as ballast for railroads and street paving. The gravel obtained in 1916 amounted to about $191,000 in value.

Mineral waters are obtained in several localities, principally in Madison, Copiah, Holmes, Hinds, Jasper, and Choctaw counties. There are health resorts maintained in the vicinity of some of the springs, and about 400,000 gallons of mineral waters are sold annually for medicinal purposes and table use.

Questions and Exercises.—1. What are the leading mineral industries in Mississippi? 2. Name the principal clay products. 3. What is said of the gravel deposits? 4. For what purposes is gravel utilized? 5. In what counties are mineral waters obtained? 6. For what are some of these springs noted? 7. What is the extent of the annual sales of mineral waters?



Cotton compress

Sawmill plant at Laurel, including sawmill, planing mill, and loading shed

MANUFACTURING

Mississippi ranks as an agricultural rather than a manufacturing state. Yet the lumber and timber products alone, in which it ranked as the fourth state of the Union in 1917, render its manufacturing interests of importance. The total value of the manufactured products of the state in 1914 amounted to a little under $80,000,000, or somewhat less than half the value of the farm crops. About half this value was in manufactured lumber and the allied wood industries.

The state has few of the natural advantages which foster the growth of manufactures. It has no important harbor, little water power, and few mineral resources. Mississippi is fortunate, however, in having fertile cotton lands and extensive forests. The beginnings of manufacturing date back to the early years of the nineteenth century. In 1810 there were 22 cotton factories and 10 tanneries. In the middle years of the century manufacturing was largely at a standstill, but with 1880 there began a period of steady growth which is still under way.

The manufacture of lumber is one of the oldest industries in the state, and it has increased steadily in importance from year to year. In 1890 the value of the lumber and timber products was a little over $5,000,000; in 1914 it was about $38,538,000. The cut of lumber for 1917 was 2,425,000,000 board feet. More than half of this was yellow pine, the rest being largely oak, cottonwood, and tupelo, with some cypress, elm, ash, hickory, and yellow poplar.

The industry second in importance is the manufacture of cottonseed oil and cake, which is the leading manufacture in Meridian, Jackson, Greenville, Columbus, and Natchez. The first mill in the United States was erected at Natchez in 1834. Before 1890 this industry was of little value to the state. Its growth is especially interesting because it is based on what was at one time largely waste. The annual value of cottonseed products is now about $32,000,000.

Repair work and construction of steam railroad cars and locomotives was the industry third in importance in 1914. In the 15 railroad shops of the state there were repairs and construction to the value of a little less than $4,000,000.

The fourth industry is the manufacture of cotton goods, a large proportion of which consist of unbleached sheetings, shirtings, and muslins. The principal material used is domestic cotton. The value of cotton goods manufactured in 1914 was a little under $3,000,000.

Fertilizer is the product next in value, more than 150,000 tons being manufactured in 1914. Turpentine and rosin are next in rank. The products for 1914 were valued at nearly $2,000,000.

Other manufactures of Mississippi include canned goods, preserved wood, printed matter, mineral waters, and various food products.

Hauling cotton to the gin

Lumber camp

Questions and Exercises.—1. To what is the importance of manufacturing interests in Mississippi due? 2. What was the total value of the manufactured products of the state in 1914? 3. Why has there been little growth of manufactures? 4. Discuss the manufacture of lumber in the state. 5. What varieties of timber products are there? 6. What manufacturing industry ranks second in importance? 7. What is the annual value of the cottonseed products? 8. What industry ranks third in importance? 9. Of what does the manufacture of cotton goods consist? 10. Name other manufactures of Mississippi.

FORESTS AND LUMBERING

There were 32,000 square miles of timbered lands in Mississippi in 1900. There are still luxuriant forests, though the woods suitable for manufacturing purposes are being fast cut off. More than 120 species of forest trees are to be found in the state, most of them deciduous. There are fifteen species of oak, including the live oak. On the bottom and swamp lands, cypress predominates. The long leaf pine flourishes in the southern half of the state. Other important varieties of forest trees are the tupelo, sycamore, persimmon, magnolia, holly, cucumber, sweet gum, black walnut, maple, hickory, and elm.

In 1917 the lumber cut amounted to about 2,425,000,000 feet. It is estimated that the wood used as firewood in that year, on 285,000 farms, amounted to 4,560,000 cords, valued at $10,488,000. Only within recent years has the timber product been important.

The production of rough lumber increased from 1,206,265,000 feet in 1899 to about 2,573,000,000 in 1909. Of the cut in the latter year, more than four fifths was yellow pine. The other leading varieties sawed, in the order of their importance, were oak, gum, cottonwood, cypress, poplar, hickory, ash, tupelo, and elm. Of the oak, a little more than 168,500,000 feet were cut.

Questions and Exercises.—1. How much of Mississippi was timbered in 1900? 2. How many species of forest trees are there? How many of oak? 3. Where is the long leaf pine region? 4. Name other important varieties of forest trees. 5. What was the extent of the lumber product in 1917? 6. Discuss the production of rough lumber.

FISHERIES

The fishing industry of this state is confined largely to Mississippi Sound and the neighboring waters, and to the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers. The most valuable products are oysters and shrimps. The shrimp industry is especially important, the catch in 1916 amounting to nearly 8,900,000 pounds, valued at more than $157,000. Mississippi ranks as the third state of the Union in shrimp fishing.

Cotton mill, West Point

Most of the shrimps are caught with haul seines. Schooners about 40 feet long carry the fishermen to the fishing grounds and the catch to the factory. In operating the seine a motorboat and a rowboat are used. The seines are often more than 200 feet long. The shrimp catching season extends from March or April until December.

A large proportion of the shrimps obtained are canned, Biloxi being the principal center for the shrimp canning industry. The canning process is simple. The meat is separated by hand from the heads and shells. It is washed in fresh water, then cooked for 5 or 10 minutes in wooden tanks of boiling water to which sufficient salt for seasoning has been added. The meat is then spread on wire meshed trays to cool, and is packed in the cans by hand. For the dry pack, the cans are lined with a parchment paper which prevents discoloration. For the wet pack the cans are filled with brine. After capping they are heated in steam-tight retorts.

There are two government fish culture stations in the state. At the Tupelo station, in 1919, there were black bass, crapple, sunfish, and widemouth bass. The Friars Point station was a collecting center for rescued fishes. Saving food fishes from the ponds, pools, and bayous in overflowed districts is a part of the work of the fish culture bureau. The fish that would otherwise perish when the shallow ponds in which they live become dry or frozen, are replanted in adjacent waters.

Questions and Exercises.—1. Where are important fishing industries located in Mississippi? 2. What are the most valuable products? 3. Discuss shrimp fishing. 4. What city is the principal center of the shrimp industry? 5. Describe the canning process. 6. Where are the government fish culture stations? 7. Of what does the work of the fish culture bureau consist?

TRANSPORTATION

The Mississippi River, along the entire western border of the state, is navigable for steamboats, and access to the port of New Orleans by means of this river places the state in a favorable position for domestic and foreign shipments. The Yazoo, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, Sunflower, Big Black, Pascagoula, and Pearl rivers are navigable to some extent.

Loading lumber on steamer at Gulfport

Mississippi Sound, which borders the state on the south, affords safe navigation for coasting vessels. Ship Island, in this Sound, has one of the best harbors on the Gulf coast. A canal 300 feet wide and 19 feet deep at low water, from Gulfport to Ship Island, was completed in 1906, and there is a large anchorage basin at Gulfport.

The first steam railway in the state was completed in 1840, from Vicksburg to Clinton. In 1860 there were 862 miles of road. By 1900 this had increased to nearly 3000 miles, and in 1916 the mileage was 4421. Important railways in or passing through the state include the Illinois Central; Yazoo and Mississippi Valley; Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific; St. Louis-San Francisco; Southern; Sardis and Delta; Pearl River Valley; New Orleans and Northeastern; New Orleans Great Northern; Natchez, Columbia and Mobile; and Mobile and Ohio. Each of these has more than 100 miles of road in the state.

In 1918 there were 150 miles of electric railways in Mississippi. The availability of gravel and sand suitable for road building is stimulating interest in the making of good surface roadways.

Questions and Exercises.—1. What waters and harbors in Mississippi afford navigation for coasting vessels? 2. What rivers are partially navigable? 3. Where was the first steam railway in the state? 4. What was the railway mileage in 1916? 5. Name important railways passing through the state. 6. What has caused an improvement in the surface roadways?

State capitol, Jackson

GOVERNMENT

The government of Mississippi is conducted under the constitution adopted November 1, 1890. The branch of the government that makes the laws for the state is divided into two bodies, or houses: one of these is known as the House of Representatives, or lower house, the other as the Senate, or upper house. Senators and representatives are elected for four years. The constitution requires that the legislature meet at the capitol, Jackson, in regular session every two years, on Tuesday after the first Monday in January, and in called session when the governor demands it.

The chief executive officer of the state is the governor. He is elected by the people for four years. It is his duty to safeguard the interests of the state and to see that the laws are obeyed. He is commander in chief of the state militia. The executive department also includes a lieutenant governor, a secretary of state, a treasurer, an auditor of public accounts, an attorney general, and a state superintendent of education.

The judicial department comprises a supreme court, circuit courts, chancery courts, and courts of the justices of the peace. There are also other inferior courts established by the state legislature under authority granted in the state constitution.

Mississippi contains eighty-two counties. It has two senators and eight representatives in Congress, and therefore has ten votes in the electoral college.

Questions and Exercises. — 1. When was the present constitution of Mississippi adopted? 2. What are the three departments of state government? 3. Of what does the legislative department consist? 4. When does the legislature meet? 5. What officers constitute the executive department? 6. Of what does the judicial department consist? 7. How many counties has Mississippi? How many senators and representatives in Congress?

EDUCATION

Mississippi has a well-organized school system, under charge of the department of public education. At the head of the system is the state superintendent of public education, who holds his office for four years. There is a superintendent for each county also, with a term of service of four years.

The laws of the state require that a public school shall be maintained for each school district during at least four months each year. In many localities the schools have been consolidated, the pupils being carried to and from their homes in school wagons. County agricultural high schools are in operation in all sections of the state.

The Lyceum, University of Mississippi

The schools are supported by the common school fund appropriated by the state legislature, together with the returns from special taxes and the income from the school lands. Separate schools are maintained for white and for colored children.

The State Normal College for training teachers is located at Hattiesburg; the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College is at Agricultural College, near Starkville; and the University of Mississippi is at University, near Oxford. The Mississippi State College for Women is at Columbus, and Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College for negroes is at Rodney.

Orher institutions carried on by other than public maintenance include Meridian College at Meridian, Grenada College at Grenada, Hillman College at Clinton, Millsaps College at Jackson, Blue Mountain College at Blue Mountain, Whitworth College at Brookhaven, and Woman's Baptist College at Hattiesburg.

There are eight junior colleges and nine academies in the state. The state has fourteen private and denominational schools for negroes.

Hinds County Agricultural High School

Questions and Exercises.—1. Under whose direction are the public schools of Mississippi? 2. How are these schools supported? 3. Name the five state-supported higher educational institutions. 4. Name the private and denominational institutions. 5. What has been done for the education of the negro in this state?

POPULATION AND CITIES

The population of Mississippi in 1800 was less than 8000. In 1850 the population was more than seventy-five times as great as in 1800. Since 1850 the rate of increase has been much smaller, but in 1920 the population was 1,789,182, three times as great as in 1850. The average number of persons to the square mile in 1920 was 38.1. In 1920, 13 per cent of the population were living in 30 cities of 2500 inhabitants and 87 per cent in rural districts. There were nine cities of over 10,000 inhabitants, and Meridian and Jackson each had more than 20,000. Of the white people 1.2 per cent were foreign born in 1910, and of the total population 56.2 per cent were negro. The census returns of 1920, so far as announced (before September, 1920), show few great changes from 1910.

View in the business section, Meridian

Meridian.—The county seat of Lauderdale County is the largest city of Mississippi. It is a great cotton market and the most important manufacturing center of the state. It has a large wholesale trade. The principal industry is the manufacture of cottonseed oil and cake. Other industries include the repairing of railroad cars and locomotives, the making of furniture, sashes, blinds, and foundry products. In 1914 the manufactures of Meridian were valued at about $4,739,000.

The city was laid out in 1854 at a proposed railway crossing. It was incorporated six years

Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, near Starkville

Municipal Building, Meridian

later. In 1864 General William Tecumseh Sherman with 20,000 men marched from Vicksburg to Meridian, which was at the time an important railway center and storehouse of Confederate supplies. Within a week nearly everything in Meridian except the private houses had been destroyed, and more than a hundred miles of railway track had been torn up. In 1906 a tornado caused much destruction of life and property in the city.

Meridian is located on the Southern, the Meridian and Memphis, the Mobile and Ohio, and the Alabama and Vicksburg railroads. In 1920 the city had a population of 23,436. It is the seat of the Meridian Female College and the Meridian Male College; also of the Meridian Academy and the Lincoln School for colored students.

Jackson, the capital of the state and the county seat of Hinds County, is located on the west bank of Pearl River, about 40 miles east of Vicksburg. The population in 1920 was 22,679. The present state capitol, completed in 1903, cost one million dollars and is among the handsomest state buildings in the Union. In the old capitol, built in 1839, was held the Secessional Convention of 1861 and within its walls Jefferson Davis made his last speech.

Jackson was designated as the seat of government in 1822, and the first state legislature was held there in that year. It was incorporated as a city in 1840. During the Civil War it was an important campaign center. In 1863 the city, then held by General Johnston, was attacked by Grant's army, and the Confederates were driven out. Later General Johnston concentrated his troops in the city, which had then been evacuated by the Federal troops, and Sherman bombarded it. Johnston withdrew his men and Sherman's army entered, burning part of the city and ravaging the country round about.

Jackson is in the midst of a cotton-growing section, and has a considerable trade and valuable manufactures. The leading manufacturing industry is the making of cottonseed oil and cake. Besides its large cotton mills, the city has iron foundries, woodworking shops, and other manufacturing plants. Millsaps College and Bellhaven College for young women are located here. The city is the seat of state institutions for the deaf, dumb, blind, and insane. It is served by the New Orleans Great Northern, the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley, the Alabama and Vicksburg, and the Gulf and Ship Island railroads.

Vicksburg, on the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers, is attractively situated among the Walnut Hills which rise about 260 feet above the river. It is the county seat of Warren County, and is an important river port and railroad center. The city has various manufacturing industries, especially the repair and building of railroad locomotives and cars, and the making of cottonseed oil and cake. Among the principal buildings are the courthouse, a federal building, and the city hall. The population of Vicksburg was 17,931 in 1920.

The city was the center of an important campaign of the Civil War, which had for its object the capture of Vicksburg by Federal troops under General Grant and General Sherman. The final

Governor's Mansion, Jackson

View of Vicksburg from the Mississippi River

capture of the city after a long siege, together with the defeat of Lee at Gettysburg, marked the turning point of the war. There are at Vicksburg a National Cemetery and a National Military Park, the latter comprising 1300 acres restoring the battle ground as it was in 1863.

Hattiesburg, the county seat of Forrest County, is located at the intersection of the New Orleans and Northeastern, Gulf and Ship Island, Mississippi Central, and Gulf, Mobile and Northern railroads. The city is situated on the Leaf River in the heart of the pine region. It manufactures fertilizers and has railroad repair shops. A modern creosoting plant has recently been completed. Hattiesburg is in a district which is noted for cotton growing, grazing, and lumbering. The State Normal College and the Woman's Baptist College are both located in Hattiesburg. During the World War it was the site of a large encampment for the training of soldiers. The population was 13,270 in 1920.

Laurel is the county seat of Jones County. It is a commercial and manufacturing city, with lumber and timber as its leading products. The lumber is principally long leaf yellow pine, and the Laurel sawmills have a capacity of 1,300,000 feet daily. Laurel has cotton and cottonseed oil mills, compress and ginnery, railroad shops, and other manufacturing plants. The city was first settled in 1894. Transportation facilities are provided by the Southern, the Gulf and Ship Island, and the Gulf, Mobile and Northern railroads. The population was 13,037 in 1920.

Natchez is a flourishing city on the Mississippi River and the county seat of Adams County. Most of the city is built upon a bluff 200 feet above the river. It was named from the Natchez Indians, who were living in the locality when white people first settled the region. The early settlement was under French, then under Spanish control, and in 1793 it was occupied by United States troops. It was chartered as a city in 1803, and from 1817 to 1821 it was the capital of the state.

The first bank in the state opened in Natchez in 1809. In 1840 a large part of Natchez was destroyed by a tornado. The city was rebuilt, and at the beginning of the Civil War it was a place of culture and wealth. In 1862 it was bombarded

State Normal College, Hattiesburg

View of the Mississippi River from Natchez

by Commodore Porter with the ironclad *Essex*, and the riverfront section was largely destroyed.

Natchez is the shipping port for a large cotton region, and the center of trade for a lumber and farming district. It manufactures cottonseed oil and cake in large quantities. Other manufactures include lumber, foundry products, and canned goods. The city is served by the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern, the New Orleans and Northeastern, and the Mississippi Central railroads. It is the seat of Stanton College, Jefferson Military College, and other educational institutions. The population of Natchez in 1920 was 12,608.

Greenville, the county seat of Washington County, is located on one of the great bends of the Mississippi and has steamboat connection with various river ports. It is in the Yazoo Delta, and its industries deal largely with cotton. It has compresses, and manufactures much cottonseed oil and cake. A large part of old Greenville, about a mile from the present site, fell into the river, and during the Civil War most of the rest of it was burned. Greenville is the seat of Furman University. The population was 11,560 in 1920.

Biloxi is located on the Gulf of Mexico, 65 miles from New Orleans. It has a fine beach extending for about twelve miles around its peninsula. Its mild, equable climate makes it a popular seaside resort both in summer and in winter, particularly for the people of New Orleans and of Mobile. The city is the center of an extensive canning industry, including oysters, shrimps, crabs, fruits, and vegetables. It has shipyards and lumber products of various kinds. The first permanent settlement in Mississippi was at Biloxi. The population in 1920 was 10,937. It is served by the Louisville and Nashville Railway.

Columbus, the county seat of Lowndes County, is located on the Tombigbee River. The river is navigable six months of the year, and large quantities of cotton and hardwood lumber are shipped from here. The city has considerable manufacturing, especially of cottonseed oil and cake. It is a marketing center for a rich agricultural region. Columbus was incorporated in 1821. It is the seat of the State College for Women. Columbus is on the Southern and the Mobile and Ohio railroads. The population was 10,501 in 1920.

Gulfport, the county seat of Harrison County, is an important port on Mississippi Sound. It has railroad shops, extensive oyster, shrimp, and vegetable canning factories, and sawmills. It is served by the Gulf and Ship Island and the Louisville and Nashville railroads. Numerous manufactures and an immense export lumber trade are among its activities. It has a pier which extends one mile and a half out to deep water.

Greenwood is the county seat of Leflore County. It is on the Yazoo River, and is in a cotton-raising section. Cotton is shipped, and the Southern and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railways pass through the city. It has numerous manufactures and an extensive wholesale trade.

McComb, in Pike County, is on the Illinois Central and the Liberty-White railroads. It is located in the midst of a cotton, corn, truck,

State College for Women, Columbus

and cattle-raising district, and it has railroad shops and a cotton mill.

Pascagoula, the county seat of Jackson County, is on the Pascagoula River, half a mile from the Gulf of Mexico. Fish, oysters, and lumber are shipped from here. It has gristmills, sawmills, shipyards, and pulp and paper mills. Nuts, vegetables, and oranges are produced in the surrounding agricultural regions.

Clarksdale, one of the two county seats of Coahoma County, has cottonseed oil mills and other manufacturing interests. It is on the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railway.

Yazoo City, the county seat of Yazoo County, is on the Yazoo River. It is located in an important cotton-growing section, and has corn-growing and lumbering interests. Much cotton is shipped in by steamboat, and there are cottonseed oil and cotton-yarn mills, a compress, sawmills, and furniture factories. It is on the Illinois Central and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroads.

Tupelo, the county seat of Lee County, is in an agricultural and cotton-growing region. The Mobile and Ohio and the St. Louis and San Francisco railroads pass through it. Tupelo has a cotton mill and a fertilizer factory.

Corinth is the county seat of Alcorn County. The city has large iron works and manufactures lumber and lumber products. It has clothing factories, cotton and cottonseed oil mills, cotton gins, and compresses. It is on the Southern and the Illinois Central railways.

Brookhaven, the county seat of Lincoln County, is a cotton-shipping point, and is in a pine forest region. It has a compress, cottonseed oil mill, and fertilizer factory, besides large lumber and agricultural interests. It is on the Mississippi Central and the Illinois Central railroads.

West Point, the county seat of Clay County, is surrounded by some of Mississippi's most noted farming lands. It is known especially as a hay, cotton, corn, live stock, and dairy market. West Point has an oil mill, cotton factory, grain elevator, creamery, lumber mill, tile factory, spoke factory, and handle factory.

Aberdeen, the county seat of Monroe County, is at the head of navigation on the Tombigbee River. It has extensive export trade in cotton, cottonseed oil, and feed stuffs, and in cattle, hides, wood, lumber, hardware, and machinery. It has corn, oil, and planing mills, sawmills, and brick, concrete, and clothing factories.

Water Valley, one of the two county seats of Yalobusha County, is in a cotton and truck-growing district. It has railroad car and machine shops, and plow, sash, door, and twine plants, and other manufactories. It is on the Illinois Central.

Okolona, one of the two county seats of Chickasaw County, is in a cotton, corn, hay, and lumber-producing district. It has some manufacturing. It is on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

Moss Point, also in Jackson County, is on the Pascagoula River, with a seventeen-foot channel to the Gulf of Mexico. It has sawmills and paper mills, and shipbuilding plants. It is on the Alabama and Mississippi Railroad. Cotton, corn, pecans, citrus fruits, and sheep are raised.

Canton, the county seat of Madison County, is a shipping point in a cotton-growing and stock-raising district. It has cottonseed oil mills and sawmills. The Illinois Central Railroad passes through Canton.

Bay Saint Louis, the county seat of Hancock County, is a popular resort on a bay of the Gulf of Mexico, 52 miles from New Orleans. It has oyster, fish, and vegetable canneries. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad passes through the city.

Charleston, one of the two county seats of Tallahatchie County, has important cotton-growing and lumbering interests. It is on the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railway.

Amory, in Monroe County and on the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway, has lumber mills and fertilizer factories.

Columbia, the county seat of Marion County, has an important trade in naval stores, staves, lumber, and cotton.

Grenada, the county seat of Grenada County, is in the midst of a cotton-growing district. It has cottonseed oil mills, compresses, ginneries, and sawmills. A Methodist College for girls is located here. The Illinois Central and the Yazoo and Mississippi railroads pass through Grenada.

Starkville, the county seat of Oktibbeha County, is the seat of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. It is in a stock-raising district, and has cotton and oil mills and a lumber yard. It is on the Mobile and Ohio and the Illinois Central railroads.

New Albany, the county seat of Union County, has a compress and oil mill, and manufactures brick and tile, spokes, handles, and other lumber products.

Picayune, in Pearl River County, has lumbering, dairying, and truck-growing interests.

Pass Christian, in Harrison County, is a resort on Mississippi Sound. It has shrimp and oyster canneries, and is in a grazing and trucking district.

TABLE I.—AREA, POPULATION, AND COUNTY SEATS OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES

COUNTY	AREA (SQ. MI.)	POPULATION 1920	COUNTY SEAT
Adams	426	22,183	Natchez
Alcorn	380	21,369	Corinth
Amite	714	18,960	Liberty
Attala	715	24,831	Kosciusko
Benton	396	9,851	Ashland
Bolivar	879	57,669	Cleveland / Rosedale
Calhoun	579	16,823	Pittsboro
Carroll	624	20,324	Carrollton / Vaiden
Chickasaw	501	22,212	Houston / Okolona
Choctaw	414	12,491	Ackerman / Chester
Claiborne	489	13,019	Port Gibson
Clarke	675	17,927	Quitman
Clay	408	17,490	West Point
Coahoma	530	41,511	Clarksdale / Friar Point
Copiah	769	28,672	Hazelhurst
Covington	410	14,869	Collins
De Soto	475	24,359	Hernando
Forrest	462	21,238	Hattiesburg
Franklin	547	14,156	Meadville
George	475	5,564	Lucedale
Greene	710	10,430	Leakesville
Grenada	442	13,025	Grenada
Hancock	469	10,380	Bay Saint Louis
Harrison	570	32,855	Gulfport
Hinds	858	57,110	Jackson / Raymond
Holmes	751	34,513	Lexington
Humphreys	408	19,192	Belzoni
Issaquena	406	7,618	Mayersville
Itawamba	529	15,647	Fulton
Jackson	710	19,208	Pascagoula
Jasper	667	18,508	Paulding
Jefferson	507	15,946	Fayette
Jefferson Davis	404	12,755	Prentiss
Jones	696	32,919	Ellisville / Laurel
Kemper	752	19,591	De Kalb
Lafayette	664	19,041	Oxford
Lamar	495	12,869	Purvis
Lauderdale	700	45,897	Meridian
Lawrence	418	12,663	Monticello
Leake	576	16,973	Carthage
Lee	448	29,618	Tupelo
Leflore	572	37,356	Greenwood
Lincoln	578	24,652	Brookhaven
Lowndes	499	27,632	Columbus
Madison	725	29,292	Canton
Marion	624	17,144	Columbia
Marshall	689	26,105	Holly Springs
Monroe	770	32,709	Aberdeen
Montgomery	398	13,453	Winona
Neshoba	561	19,303	Philadelphia
Newton	568	20,727	Decatur
Noxubee	682	23,710	Macon
Oktibbeha	457	16,872	Starkville
Panola	696	27,845	Batesville / Sardis
Pearl River	797	15,468	Poplarville
Perry	644	8,987	New Augusta
Pike	707	28,725	Magnolia
Pontotoc	494	19,962	Pontotoc
Prentiss	409	17,606	Booneville
Quitman	395	19,861	Marks
Rankin	791	20,272	Brandon
Scott	597	16,420	Forest
Sharkey	444	14,190	Rolling Fork
Simpson	575	18,109	Mendenhall
Smith	626	16,178	Raleigh
Stone	443	6,528	Wiggins
Sunflower	690	46,374	Indianola
Tallahatchie	629	35,897	Charleston / Sumner
Tate	400	19,616	Senatobia
Tippah	446	15,419	Ripley
Tishomingo	428	15,091	Iuka
Tunica	418	20,386	Tunica
Union	412	20,044	New Albany
Walthall		13,455	Tylertown
Warren	572	33,221	Vicksburg
Washington	877	51,092	Greenville
Wayne	812	15,467	Waynesboro
Webster	416	12,644	Walthall
Wilkinson	667	15,319	Woodville
Winston	597	18,139	Louisville
Yalobusha	490	18,487	Coffeeville / Water Valley
Yazoo	1038	37,149	Yazoo City

TABLE II.—VALUE OF LEADING MANUFACTURES, 1914

MANUFACTURES	VALUE
Lumber and timber products	$38,538,000
Cottonseed oil and cake	17,600,000
Railroad cars, construction and repairs	3,682,000
Cotton goods	2,789,000
Fertilizers	2,060,000
Turpentine and rosin	1,997 000
Canned and preserved foods	1,655,000
Preserved wood	1,479,000
Printed matter	1,267,000
Mineral and soda waters	1,066,000
Ice	1,045,000
Bakery products	910,000
Foundry and machine shop products	699,000
Clay products	513,000
Carriages, wagons, etc.	479,000
Flour and meal	410,000
Food preparations	201,000
Copper, tin, and sheet-iron work	191,000

TABLE III.—VALUE OF LEADING CROPS AND LIVE STOCK, 1919

CROPS AND ANIMALS	QUANTITY	VALUE
Cotton	950,907 bales	$160,737,000
Cottonseed	421,000 tons	26,707,000
Corn	59,700,000 bu.	95,520,000
Hay	648,000 tons	13,284,000
Sweet potatoes	10,290,000 bu.	11,525,000
Oats	5,282,000 bu.	5,546,000
Cane sirup	6,675,000 gal.	
Sorghum sirup	5,100,000 gal.	4,845,000
Potatoes	1,530,000 bu.	2,830,000
Wheat	504,000 bu.	1,260,000
Cowpeas	160,000 bu.	400,000
Peanuts	128,000 bu.	283,000
Rice	96,000 bu.	182,000
Horses	261,000	29,493,000
Mules	322,000	48,944,000
Cattle	1,287,000	52,228,000
Swine	2,396,000	34,742,000
Sheep	175,000	1,102,000